visit to the Russian Federation in November, 2001. Two Sessions of the Indo-Russian Joint Working Group on Afghanistan have already been held. The 7th Session of the Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation was held in Moscow on January 15, 2001, and is expected to help in the further intensification of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. An Agreement between ONGC- Videsh Limited of India and M/s Rosneft of the Russian Federation relating to ONGC-VL's participation in the Sakhalin-I oilfields has been signed. A number of Ministerial exchanges covering various sectors have taken place and several others are planned in the coming months. Foreign Office Consultations on a wide range of subjects, including strategic stability, take place on a regular basis between the two countries. These exchanges are an effective mechanism for addressing and countering any potential problem which could adversely affect our traditional friendship with the Russian Federation.

Sino-Russian Pact

4182. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item entitled "Concern over Sino-Russian Pact" that appeared in the 'Times of India' dated the 6th August, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) steps proposed to be taken to protect India's interests in case Russia and China were to carve out a new strategic balance in the international affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government remains vigilant and takes all appropriate measures to safeguard India's interests.

Illegal foreign occupation in Indian Territory

4183. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA :
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Indian territory/land under illegal occupation of Pakistan, China and Bangladesh, respectively;

(b) since when such lands are under foreign occupation; and

(c) the efforts made last by Government of India to reclaim the territory in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c)

Pakistan

Pakistan has forcibly and illegally occupied approximately 78,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Under the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, which are the cornerstones of our bilateral relations. Government are committed to resolving all issues with Pakistan peacefully through bilateral discussions.

China

China illegally occupies approximately 38,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan occupied Kashmir to China. India and China are seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations.

Bangladesh

Along the International Boundary between the two countries, Bangladesh is estimated to have an area of 2,749 acres adversely possessed and India an area of 29,228 acres. These are areas possessed by nationals of the other country than the one to which the land belongs.

The 1974 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh concerning the demarcation of the land boundary between India and Bangladesh and related matters, provides for exchange of adverse possessions.

The first meeting of the India—Bangladesh Joint Boundary Working Groups on Border Demarcation, and on Enclaves and Adversely Possessed Territories was held in Dhaka from July 2-4, 2001. Pending implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement by mutual agreement, both sides reiterated their commitment to maintaining *status quo* and peace and tranquility on the border.